

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a lockable, removable cassette for a banknote processor, the cassette having a single wall construction comprising [:] a plastic shell, ~~having a single wall construction~~; and a currency access door connected to the shell.
 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cassette is at least one of a Nylon material, a PPO material, a Polypropylene material, a Polycarbonate material, an ABS material, and a Polyester material.
 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cassette is made from a Polycarbonate and ABS blended material.
 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the walls are formed by at least one of Gas Assist Injection Molding, blow molding, rotational molding, Reaction Injection Molding and co-injection of two polymers.
 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shell is combined with a reinforcing material.
 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the reinforcing material is at least one of a rigid material to impart strength and a soft material to improve shock absorption.
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7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shell is combined with a resilient material.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plastic shell comprises a first cassette portion and a second cassette portion joined together by a welding process.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising at least one of a flexible handle and an integrated grip.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising~~ An apparatus comprising a lockable, removable cassette for a banknote processor, the cassette having a single wall construction and comprising a plastic shell, a currency access door connected to the shell, and at least one of an aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the cassette.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising an internal mechanism that is at least partially transparent.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 ~~12~~ wherein transport of documents in the apparatus is achieved primarily by rotating rollers formed by a two-shot injection molding process, wherein the rotating rollers comprise an inner core made from a rigid plastic and an outer tire made from a flexible material.

11/15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising a hinge pin to secure the access door to the plastic shell, wherein the currency access door remains secure even if the a hinge pin is removed.

12/16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 comprising a plurality of hinge pins to secure the access door to the plastic shell, wherein the currency access door remains secure even if the a plurality of hinge pins are removed.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

16/16. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a lockable removable cassette comprising:

a guide means to guide the cassette during installation; and

a latch means for engagement during installation;

wherein if the cassette is not securely latched during installation, then a biasing means moves the cassette.

17/16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least one of a flexible handle and an integrated grip.

18/16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein an unsecured cassette interferes with an access door of a host machine.

19/16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising at least one of an aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the cassette.

~~20~~¹⁶23. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~19~~¹⁶ further comprising a stacker mechanism.

~~21~~²⁰24. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~23~~²⁰ wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:
a stacker plate; and
a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

~~23~~²³25. (Original) A lockable removable cassette comprising:
at least one guide;
at least one lug; and
at least one ramp;
wherein when the cassette is loaded into a chassis the guide mates with a chassis guide, the lug mates with a bias means and the ramp mates with a latch means such that if the cassette is improperly loaded then the bias means moves the cassette away from the chassis.

~~24~~²³26. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~²³ further comprising at least one of a flexible handle and an integrated grip.

~~25~~²³27. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~²³ wherein a failure to securely latch the cassette to the chassis generates a mechanical interference with a door of a host machine.

~~26~~²³28. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~²³ further comprising at least one of an aperture and a transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a document stored in the cassette.

~~27~~²³29. (Original) The apparatus of claim ~~25~~²³ further comprising a stacker mechanism.

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28²⁷ (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:
a stacker plate; and
a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

29²⁹ (Original) A method comprising:
aligning guide means of a lockable removable cassette with a chassis guide means; and
pushing the lockable removable cassette with force sufficient to overcome the resistance of a biasing means to secure the cassette.

30²⁹ (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein if insufficient force is applied then the biasing means moves the lockable removable cassette away from the chassis.

31³⁰ (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein an unsecured cassette interferes with the closing of an access door of a host machine.

32²⁹ (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising observing ~~the contents~~ a document stored in the cassette through at least one of an aperture and a transparent window. ms

33²⁹ (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising removing the lockable removable cassette by exerting a pull force sufficient to overcome a retention force.

34²⁹ (Currently amended) A document processing system comprising:
a chassis;
a lockable removable cassette;
a latching means to secure the cassette; and
a biasing means;

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wherein if the cassette is not securely latched to the chassis then the biasing means moves the cassette.

35³⁴ 31. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~36~~³⁴ further comprising a banknote validator.

36³⁴ 38. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~³⁴ further comprising a stacker mechanism.

37³⁶ 39. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~³⁶ wherein the stacker mechanism comprises:

a stacker plate; and

a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

38³⁶ 40. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~38~~³⁶ further comprising a single sensor that detects the installation of the lockable removable cassette and at least a home position of the stacker mechanism.

39³⁸ 41. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~40~~³⁸ wherein the sensor includes a light source, a light path means and a receiver.

40³⁹ 42. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~41~~³⁹ wherein the light path means comprises a light pipe having at least an input port, an interrupt portion ~~position~~ and an output port.

41⁴⁰ 43. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim ~~42~~⁴⁰ wherein at least one interrupt portion is connected to a pusher plate of the stacker.

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42. (Currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 40 further comprising a prism.

45. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a lockable, removable currency cassette comprising:

molding the cassette according to a single walled injection molded design; and
connecting an access door to the cassette shell.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45, wherein the walls of the cassette are joined using a thermoplastic welding technique.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46 wherein an electromagnetic field is used to provide thermal energy to weld the walls.

48. (Withdrawn) A stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate; and

a drive means coupled to the stacker plate, wherein the drive means includes non-circular drive gears.

49. (Withdrawn) A stacker mechanism comprising:

a stacker plate;

a first scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate;

a second scissor arm connected at a first end to the stacker plate, and pivotally connected to the first scissor arm about a scissor pivot point located approximately at the center of the length of the first scissor arm; and

a link arm for driving the stacker plate, the link arm connected to the first scissor arm at a pivot point located between the scissor pivot point and a second end of the first scissor arm.

Applicant : Bergeron et al.
Serial No. : 09/982,578
Filed : October 16, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07703-356001 / WCR0125

~~50.~~ (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising a drive means coupled to the link arm and having non-circular drive gears.

~~15~~ 51. (New) The cassette of claim ~~10~~¹³ including at least one of an aperture and transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a most recent document stored in the cassette.

~~22~~ 52. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~19~~¹⁶ wherein if the cassette is not securely latched during installation, then a biasing means moves the cassette in a direction away from an installation direction.

~~43~~ 53. (New) An apparatus for processing documents comprising a front-removable storage cassette wherein the documents are stacked in the cassette from front to rear, with a most recent document stored at the front of the stack.

~~44~~ 54. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~53~~⁴³ comprising a stacker located at a front end of the cassette.

~~45~~ 55. (New) The apparatus of claim ~~54~~⁴⁴ comprising at least one of an aperture and transparent window located to allow visual inspection of a most recent document stored in the cassette.

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